For the New-York Tribune. TO MY MOTHER.

My Mother! on thy fading brow is many a mark of care. The tale of Life's eventful scenes is deeply written there : And day by day a voice there comes, to whisper unto me, That Time hath for my Manhood claimed the years of Age from thee.

And now when in maturer years, the scenes of Youth I trace, And mark the saddened smile that oft will steal across thy

The memory of my wayward way is darkly round me thrown, To whisper that by acts of mine that smile hath sadder grown Oh! cold, indeed, would be my heart, did it refuse to thrill, When I recall thy love for me, that lives unchanging still ! That o'er my spirit ever threw, when I had sought its cower A spell as sweet as thoughts of Heaven, in melancholy hour How oft when others faithless proved, and I've gone forth to

Amid the world's discordant throng, a loneness o'er me steal, Hath sweet remembrance given me for these poor friends of The thought, that as their love grew faint, it only deepened

In all the bliss which I have felt-in all the wees of Care,

Thy heart, responsive to my own, would joys and sorrow And when my love to others turned, and cold to thee had grown

My wanderings but seemed to make thine live for me alone ! Then, Mother! be it mine to give a purer love to thee-A love as hely and as strong as thine has been for me; Striving to deepen all thy bliss, and every grief assnage, And solace with my better years the loneness of thine Age ! A. D. F. R.

## Glimpses at Europe.

NUMBER XXVI.] [BY A TRAVELING NEW-YORKER Foreign Correspondence of the New-York Tribune.

VENICE-PLACE OF ST. MARK-AUSTRIAN TYRAN-NY-CHURCH OF ST. MARK.

Your first glimpse of VENICE from the distant shore of Fusina, shows you a glittering mass of domes, towers and palaces, rising from the sea, like a fairy exhalation. You almost expect to see it sink again into the element from whose bosom it seems to have sprung, or to find it sailing off before the wind, or fading out into nothingness. But as you approach it in your noiseless gondola, the city shows itself too real and substantial to be a creation of fancy; but still you are lost in admiration of the fortitude of the fugitives from the devastating Goths, who abandoned the earth to their irresistible conqueror, but contested the sea with the monsters of the deep, and founded a city in mid-ocean. The structures increase in majesty and splendor as you approach them, and at length you enter the Grand Canal, (the main artery of the great body, with countless smaller veins of water branching off on either side,) and gliding up this trackless street, as smoothly, silently, as in a dream, you pass by palace after palace, of strange oriental architecture, with their fronts washed by the waves of the sea, and bearing names of ancient greatness which thrill you with excitement, when you recall to mind the achievements and the fates of those who once dwelt here. Over the side canals you see many bridges, but the main channel bears none, till you reach a broad massive arch which spans it at one stretch, and as you shoot beneath its shadow, the gondolier says, "The Rialto!" As you emerge from under it, you peer eagerly among the crowd moving around the shops, which still line its sides, and almost expect to see there Shylock himself. At length you turn aside from the Grand Canal, and your gondola winds through various smaller water-streets, which seem to you a perfect labyrinth, but by which you are brought to your hotel, in the court of which are two doors, one, (by which you have entered,) labelled " Egress by water," and the other "Egress by land," giving to the amphibious inhabitants

their choice of either element. Though night had now come on, we were too impatient to delay till the next day the view of the famous Piazza di San Marco, and accordingly passed out by the "land door," and traversed the "land-streets" of Venice. They are narrow and winding, and are lined by very lofty houses, whose lower stories are occupied by shops, crowded into such confined limits, as show how valuable is, or rather was, every foot of the ground wrested from the sea. Broad flag stones pave their whole width, which is all foot-path, for no horses or carriages ever intrude here, and the pedestrian has the entire monopoly of the street, without fear of being run down at every instant, -a luxurious freedom which is an unique exception on the continent. After several turns from one dark and narrow lane into another, we passinto the startling magnificence of the Piazza di San Marco. Behind us was a palace forming the side of the square through which we had entered; on our left hand stretched out the palace of the Procurazie Vecchie, standing on an arcade of fifty arches, and extending for five hundred feet along one side of the Place. On your right hand but as our eyes passed along the long range of brilliant lights which lined the fronts of the two opposite palaces, they were met at the farther extremity of the Place, by the gorgeous eastern splendor of the arches, columns, and domes of the Church of San Marco, while in one corner rose the tall tower of the Campanile, and on the opposite side that of the Horologe. The whole world beside cannot present such a spectacle.

Crossing the square to its farther right-hand corner, you there find a smaller Piazza, or Piazzetta, one side of which is formed by the Palace of the Doges, and another by the sea, on which once rode so triumphantly the galleys of the Venetian Republic. Two granite columns, trophics from Constantinople, adorn one extremity of the from the dimly lighted Piazzetta, and passing the Church of San Marco, which seems a relic of another hemisphere, and almost of another world, you enter the arcades under the palaces, which are lined with brilliant cafes, before which are lounging crowds of every nation, among which are most conspicuous the Turks, with their turbans and pipes, and the Greeks, with their red of the Piazza is in striking contrast to the gloom which those who understand the dialect receive with shouts of laughter. Sellers of iced drinks their cries, while the pretty flower-girls, instead | bit of marble) and triumphantly repeated the

Presently a military band of fifty musicians take up their stations in the centre of the great Place, and perform the very finest geme of Italian and German music with the most perfect execution. It is thus that the Austrian government strives to "take the captive soul and lap it in Elysium;" and if the Venetians can be thus soothed, it is no wonder that a stranger is entirely fascinated by the unique mixture of actual enjoyments and romantic beauties concentrated in this Piazza di San Marco, whose mysterious charm attracted me to it every day of my stay in Venice, and to and species, combined in remarkable varieties of which I find my memory return oftener than to any other spot of my rambles. The next day we returned to view more in de-

tail the many interesting objects clustered about

the Piazza. It was still most picturesque, but the light of day showed what had been unnoticed in the night-a row of Austrian cannon pointing upon the square, ready to sweep from it the people, if their assemblages should offend their Austrian masters. Worse yet-the odious Austrian colors-the black and yellow stripes-were painted upon the very columns of the palace of the Doges, as if they wished to add insult to injury. When their tyranny makes the blood of a stranger boil, can the Venetians themselves be unmoved? But chained hand and foot by their jealous masters, they can do nothing. Under the Austrian system of espionage, throughout the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, brother is afraid of brother. Walls have ears, and mal-bags have eves. A regular department of the Post-Office is that for opening letters, and in it are "readers" of every nation, each for his own language. If this letter were mailed in Venice, it would never reach New-York, and I might be invited to leave the Kingdom within four-and-twenty hours, as so indiscreet as to say what he thought of the Austrian Government. That was fair enough, for when a stranger voluntarily enters a country of slaves, he tacitly consents to be dumb as they are forced to be; but when a country is enslaved by brute force, as has been the fate of Venice, the inhabitants may well chase to have the bridle put in their mouths as well as the burden on their backs; and feeling their present impotence, and remembering their former power, well may they exclaim with the great poet who was so long their fellow citizen,

'Oh for one hour of blind old Dandolo! Th' octogenarian Chief, Byzantium's conquering fee!" But it is in vain to invoke the memories of the past; let us rather mount the Campanile, and see what Venice is at present. There are no steps, but the ascent is by an inclined plane, running round the four sides of the tower, like the thread of a square screw. The summit commands a magnificent view of Venice and its surrounding islands. You here see that the city lies in the centre of a lagoon, which is divided from the sea by the Lido and other islands, precisely as a closet is shut off by a partition from a large room. In the midst of this lie the islands on which the fugitives from Attila founded their infant city, which subsequently occupied not only the islands, but the intermediate shallows, leaving only the channels as water-streets, so that the canals, instead of being excavations, are only depths left unfilled. Between the two principal islands (those of the Rialto and of San Marco) winds the Grand Canal, very much in the shape of the letter S., and smaller ones intersect the city in every direction. Every spot is covered with houses, but in one corner you see a few trees, those of the Giardino Publico, and their singularly solitary look first reminds you how rare such things are in Venice. The domes of the many fine churches, and their bell-towers, are the most conspic ous objects, both in the city and in the neighboring islands, but the most remarkable of them is San Marco at your feet with its five cupolas, its masque-like minarets, and oriental architecture, as if it had been bodily transported hither from Constantinople.

Descending from the Campanile, you find yourself before the Church, whose mystic splendor is unparalleled in Christendom. Its front is incrusted, as it were, with five hundred columns of precious marbles; of every color, black, white, blue, ed under a broad archway, and suddenly emerged red, purple, and gold veined; of every shape, round, square, polygonal, fluted and twisted; and some with Syrian inscriptions. These are all trophies of Venetian conquest, brought by the victors from the East, and consecrated by them to San Marco, the patron saint of the city. Scarcely any two are alike; all have their histories; and those flanking the principal portal are said to was the corresponding colonnade of the Palazzo have been brought from the imple of Jerusalem Reale, bustling with gay crowds of every nation; itself. Over the doors are co.ossal moraic pictures of various sacred subjects, and their colors are as brilliant now as when they were first executed. Upon the principal portal stand the famous bronze horses which have seen the rise and fall of so many mighty empires. At first they were emblems of the power of the Grecian Isle of Chios; there they were harnessed to a chariot, which surmounted the triumphal arch of Nero: Theodosius transferred tham from Rome to Constantinople; and the Venetian conquerer of Byzantium brought them thence in 1204 to the island-city, where they long represented her empire, so that the enemies of Venice could find no more expressive threat than that of "bridling these wild horses." For six centuries they stood in their present position, but when Napoleon over-Piazzetta, and the piers of the gate of St. John | threw Venice, he carried off the horses to Paris. of Acre, brought from that city by its conqueror, They are now restored, but unhappily they seem stands epposite. Every thing reminds you of the no longer to be talismans of sovereignty, for they former greatness of the Venetian Republic, now have not brought back with them liberty to Vebecome a slave of Austrian tyranny. Returning nice. Whether these trophies and emblems of war are appropriately placed over the entrance of a church sacred to a religion of peace is another

Entering the church you find yourself in vestibule, adorned with columns, mosaics, and monuments, but its most interesting memento is a lozenge of reddish marble let leto the pavement. and said to mark the precise spot where occurred Fez caps and embroidered jackets. The gaiety in the year 1177 a great triumph of liberty and of superstition, which for once were found together. which hangs over the rest of Venice; but it is After a bloody war of 24 years the Emperor Frethe gaiety of aliens, and in all the crowd you derick Barbarossa had consented to acknowledge seldom see any one who looks as if he might be a | the independence of Venice and the authority of | penses of the so called Equity Courts cannot be Venetian noble; the few who remain are too proud the Pope Alexander III. In this church the saved to the community without a denial of to expose their degradation to the world. Guitar Pope said a solemn mass, and absolved the Emplayers and singers pass and repass, performing peror from the ban of excommunication, and in their national airs, and singing comic canzonets, this very vestibule Barbarossa prostrated himself before the Pope, who here, if tradition say true. placed his foot upon the head of the Emperor and candied fruits fill up the symphonies with (which rested upon the very spot marked by this

your bosom, and leave their pay to your liberality. lion and adder." In this land one may find indeed "sermons in stones."

The interior of the church has all the strange oriental richness of its front. Its roof and walls are covered with mosaic pictures upon a gold ground, so that it seems completely lined with that precious metal. Many of the mosaics: probably date from the foundation of the church, eight centuries ago, but this species of painting Time form and consistent in maintaining them, and dares not attack. The very pavement is unequalled elsewhere, for it is most richly tesselated and inlaid with precious marbles of every color forms, in stars, suns, crosses, and nameless figures; in which the artist has wonderfully united regularity with novelty. Any portion would make a noble table for a Prince, and this rich work is lavished upon the whole pavement, to be trodden upon by every beggar that may enter. Imagine from this the splendor of the other portions of the church. In some places the pavement undulates like the waves of the sea, the pressure of which has indeed thus disturbed its level, as if that element had striven to enter and share in the cele- rer, has refused to do the same thing, for the same bration of the many triumphs achieved upon its bosom, and solemnized in this church.

Leaving behind you the elaborate carving of the altar and rood-loft, and the curiosities of the smaller chapels, and quitting the church, you see in front of it three massive bronze pedestals, enriched with emblematic designs of sea-nymphs and Tritons, and supporting three tall masts, from which used to float the silk and gold banners of the Venetian Republic. The three were said to represent Venice, Cyprus, and the Morea, all ruled by the same Republican powers. Now each has a different master, and the Venetian noble who now crosses the Piazza di San Marco must keep his eyes upon the ground, for if he happened at Milan to an English friend, who was look up he will see the masts not flagless-that m. It be borne-but spreading to the wind the broa folds of the flags of his Austrian tyrants.

## Constitutional Reform ... No. I. CHANCERY, &C.

It is now nearly a quarter of a century since the adoption of the present State Constitution, since which it has received some unimportant amendments by the action of the Legislature; but the popular attention has not till recently been turned to the necessity of a general revision.

In the mean time original defects have had time to develop themselves; evils, then unanticipated, have had time to become apparent; and restrictions of powers, then thought sufficient, have been found to be ineffectual.

It has been found that the provision requiring a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature " to appropriate public moneys or property to local or private purposes, or for creating a body politic or corporate," is one that may be violated at the pleasure of the Legislature; and that there is no tribunal to check the tendency of the Legislature to pass the Constitutional boundaries of its power, but one composed almost entirely of the members of one branch of the Legislature itself-not likely as judges to decide that their own acts as Legislators were infractions of the Constitution.

Besides, it has been found that the Judicial sys tem of the State is illy adopted to the wants of the people. Lawyers complain of delays; litigants of the injustice of decisions, and unfortunate debtors and those having business of mere form in our Courts, complain of unnecessary and unreasonable prolixity and expense.

Our system is such, too, as to perpetuate the distinction between what is Law and what is Equity-a distinction that in this age ought no longer to be tolerated, but which must exist while we have one set of tribunals to administer Equity and another to administer Law.

One set of these tribunals ought to be dispensed with, and such powers devolved upon the others this privilege was taken away-and it may well as to enable them to administer such law as is equitable and such equity as is legal.

Since the adoption of our present Constitution our Courts of Chancery have been practically increased from one to ten, and a vast amount of business before then transacted by the Law Courts diverted to these dilatory and expensive tribunals, until partly by statute enactments, and partly by its own encroachments upon the jurisdiction of the laws Courts, it has been made to appear that our Chancery business has increased eight hundred or a thousand per cent. in about twenty years, and equaling (if the number of Chancellors employed afford any criterion) the whole Chancery business of England.

Mere formal proceedings for the partition of lands, the assignment of dower, the foreclosure of mortgages, for appointing trustees or guardians over the estates of lunatics, insane persons, and habitual drunkards, and proceedings even to enforce the collection of the judgments of the law Courts, are constantly employing a tribunal originally established for, and for a long time engaged solely in, affording relief in cases that could not be relieved by the Courts of common law jurisdiction.

In these Courts the one Judge decides the law, the equity and the facts; the trial by jury and testimony by parole in face of the Judge who is to decide, are dispensed with; and questions involving personal liberty, and millions in amount, decided upon testimony presented to the trying tribunal in such manner as to give a felon witness the same credence as an honest man.

The delay and expense attending proceedings in these Courts are incident to the formal and ceremonious practice by which our two hundred printed rules are deemed necessary by the Chancellor to inform suitors how equity is to be obtained in these tribunals.

Numerous as are these so called equity tribunals, an increase of two Chancellors with jurisdiction concurrent with the present Chancellor is recommended by the Governor, and various other propositions are now before the Legislature for such amendments of the Constitution as will increase these Courts instead of abolishing those that now exist. Is it not time for the people themselves to begin to understand a subject so important, and inquire whether the extraordinary power devolved upon Chancellors is not repugnant to free institutions, and whether the immense ex-

In future numbers I may show the progress of Chancery power in this State, the causes and the consequences, and the necessity of a Convention to amend the Constitution in respect to this and several other subjects.

Washington L. Atlee, M. D., of Lancaster, has been elected Professor of Medical Chemistry in of crying their wares, slily slip a bouquet into words of the Psalm "Thou shalt tread upon the the Pennsylvania College, at Philadelphia.

Annexation of Texas. The introduction of Texas into our Federal Union is advocated exclusively, I believe, by the Southern Abstractionists and Strict Constructionists, of whom Jefferson may be considered the idol, and Calhoun and Tyler the high-priests. Of the sincerity of Mr. Jefferson in his views of the Constitution, I have no doubt. He was uniwas never known to abandon them when they happened to interfere with any favorite purpose or object of his own. But Mr. Calhoun and John Tyler have subjected themselves to more than the suspicion of hypocrisy in the use they have made of Mr. Jefferson's principles.

Mr. Jefferson is well known to have believed and to have maintained that Congress possessed no powers except those which are conferred upon them by the express words of the Constitution. He equally believed that the President could do no act unless he was expressly authorized to do it by that instrument. When he was applied to to recommend a national fast, he refused to do so. because he found no authority to do it in the Constitution. And, if I mistake not, John Tyler, under the sage counsel of the Richmond Enqui-

It was in consequence of the solicitude of the School of which Mr. Jefferson was the head, to guard against the assumption of powers not expressly conferred upon the Federal Government by the Constitution, that the following amendment of the Constitution was adopted: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the People." This amendment was proposed by Congress to the States on the fourth day of March, 1839, the very day when the Federal Government was first organized.

For this principle of strict construction, we are ndebted to Southern Abstractionists, and we of the North have always seen it most vigorously insisted upon whenever its relaxation would have been likely to benefit our portion of the Union. By its application our great Commercial and Manufacturing interests have been crushed. The Bank was broken down, because it was unconstitutional; the Tariff was broken down, because it was unconstitutional. And in vain did we plead that the Government, in all its branches, Executive. Legislative, and Judicial, had repeatedly recognized the Tariff and the Bank as constitu-

And now the South wishes to have Texas annexed to the Union. It is a Southern measure; it is for their interest. We of the North are opposed to it; we regard it as a clear violation of the Federal Compact; we find no authority for it in the Constitution, express or implied; we think it would leave us a country not worth living in : a country disgraced throughout in all its parts by the voluntary adoption and establishment of the Institution of Slavery.

Does the South pause to inquire whether it is constitutional? Oh, no-they do not condescend o discuss the matter at all; they do not even leign to take us of the North into their counsels. They have long ago separately resolved that Texas is to be admitted; and, without the knowledge of the North, they have been secretly intriguing and negotiating for its admission; they are on the eve of a Treaty with that country for the pur-

But Texas will not be admitted into this Union thout a struggle—a struggle which will begi peaceably, but the end of which it is not so easy to foresee. We shall first plant ourselves upon the Constitution-a ground which the South have so often occupied-and we shall insist upon pre-

isely the same measure as has been meted to us. Mr. Jefferson is the authority always invoked by the South when the construction of the Constiution is in question. And upon the admission of Texas, Mr. Jefferson is an authority exactly in

It is well known that about the year 1801 Spain ceded a vast tract of territory, including New Orleans, to France. Up to this time our itizens in the valley of the Mississippi had enoved every commercial facility and the right of epositing their goods and produce at New Or. leans. It was a privilege then indispensably necessary to them. They had no other outlet to the Ocean and, then never expected any other. Immediately after the cession by Spain to France. be imagined what were the consequences anticipated by our government from this new state of things. Mr. Jefferson justly regarded New Orleans, or the right of a place of deposit at the outlet of the Mississippi, as indispensably necessary to the United States; and he foresaw that if it remained in possession of an ambitious and powerful nation like France, it must be the cause of perpetual collision and war. In his own language "there is on the globe but one single spot, the possessor of which must be our natural and habitual enemy. It is New Orleans, through which the produce of three-eighths of our territory must pass to market, and from its fertility it will ere long yield more than half of our whole produce, and contain more than half of our inhabitants. France, placing herself in that door assumes to us the attitude of defiance."

Mr. Jefferson, conscious of the vast importance of possessing New Orleans, the moment the first collision occurred, set himself about its acquisition. He directed our Minister at Paris at once to treat for and obtain it if possible. He did so and succeeded. Mr. Jefferson did not consult with Congress or the Nation, because he feared that discussion here would only open the eves of France to its immense value to us, and that that needy power would be induced to de-

mand more than we should be able to pay. But Mr. Jefferson well knew that he was exceeding his powers and that the acquisition of territory was not a power delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution. He felt and declared that he could find no justification for his conduct except in the extreme emergency and necessity of the case, and that it could only be sanctioned by an amendment of the Constitution. It was not that we wanted the territory, but that we could not live nor breathe without New Orleans-New Orleans was all that our Minister at Paris was directed to negotiate for-but contrary to his expectations he not only got New Orleans without difficulty but a boundless territory into

Let us hear what Mr. Jefferson had to say immediately after New Orleans was ceded to us. In a letter to Mr. Breckenridge, dated Aug. 12th, 1803, which will be found in the 3rd volume of his works, p. 511, he says:

"This treaty must of course be laid before both Houses, be They, I presume, will show their duty to their country in ratifying and paying for it, so as to secure a good which would otherwise probably be never again in their power. But I suppose they must then appeal to the nation for an additional article to the Constitution, approving and confirming an act which the nation has not previously authorized. The Constitution has made no provision for our holding foreign territory, still less for incorporating foreign nations into our Union. The Executive in seizing the fugitive occurrence, which so much advances the good of their country, has done an act beyond the Constitution. The Legislature, in casting be hind them metaphysical subtleties, and risking themselves like faithful etaphysical subtleties, and risking themselves like faithful ryants, must ratify and pay for it, and throw themselves on wir country for doing for them unauthorized, what we know nev would have done for themselves, had they been in a situ tron to do it. It is the case of a guardian, investing the moation to do it. It is the case of a guardian, investing the money of his ward in purchasing an important adjacent territory, and-saying to him, when of age, I did this for your good; I pretend to no right to bind you; you may disavow me, and I must get out of the scrape as I can: I thought it my duty to risk myself for you. But we shall not be disavowed by the nation, and their act of indemnity will confirm and not weaken the Constitution, by more strongly marking out its lines."

In a letter to W. C. Nicholas dated Sept. 7th, 1803 (4 Jefferson's works 2) he says:

I enclose you a letter from Munroe on the subject of the late treaty: You will observe a hint in it, to do without delay what we are bound to do. There is reason, in the opinion of our Ministers, to believe, that if the thing were to do over our Ministers, to believe, that if the thing were to do over again, it could not be obtained, and that if we give the least opening they will decree the treaty void. A warning amounting to this has been given to them, and an unusual kind of certainly a line far West of the Sabine.

letter written by their Minister to our Secretary of State, direct. Whatever Congress shall think it necessary to do, should be done with as little debate as possible, and particularly so far as respects the constitutional difficulty. I am aware of the force of the observations you make on the power given by the Constitution to Congress, to admit new states. the Union, without rest aining the subject to the territor en constituting the United States. But when I consider that he limits of the United States are precisely fixed by the treaty the limits of the United States are precisely fixed by the treaty of 1783, that the Constitution expressly declares itself to be made for the U. States, I cannot help believing the intention was not to permit Gorgress to admit into the Union new States, which should be formed out of the territory for which, and under whose authority alone, they were then acting. I do not believe it was meant that they might receive England, Ireland, Holland, Xc. into it, which would be the case on our construction. When an instrument admits two constructions, the one non. When an instrument aumits two constructions, the one afe, the other dangerous, the one precise, the other indefinite, I prefer that which is safe and precise. Thad rather ask an engagement of power from the nation, where it is found necessary, than to assume it by construction, which would make our powers boundless. Our peculiar security is in the possible proposed to the p our powers boundless. Our peculiar security is in the pos-ession of a written Constitution. Let us not make it a blank ager by construction. I say the same as to the opinion of these who consider the grant of the treaty-making power as oundless. If it is, then we have no Constitution. If it has bounds, they can be no others than the deficitions of the pow-rs which that instrument gives. It specifies and delineates he operations permitted to the Federal Government, and gives If the powers necessary to carry these into execution. Whatthe powers necessary to carry these into execution. What-r of these enumerated objects is proper for a law, Congress y make the law, whatever is proper to be executed by way a treaty, the President and S-pate may enter into the treawhatever is to be done by a judiceal sentence, the Judges

It is perfectly clear therefore that Mr. Jefferson, whose views on constitutional questions have been always enforced upon the country as law, fully believed that the acquisition of Louis-

iana was unconstitutional.

But it is said, and this is the only argument for the admission of Texas, "it is sufficient that Louisiana and afterward Florida were acquired .-That settles all constitutional difficulties and questions. If it was not constitutional before, it s now." Iedeed, gentlemen of the South, most ingenious casuists and abstractionists, did that settle the Tariff question-did that settle the Bank question? Do you, you John Tyler and John C. Calhoun, set up precedent as an answer to a constitutional objection? If you do, all that can be said about it is, it makes a vast difference with some men whose ox it was that gored the neigh

Before closing this communication, I cannot nelp referring to Mr. Webster's late letter on the subject of the Annexation of Texas. That letter has not been satisfactory to Mr. Webster's admirers. As all have felt, he has not shown that insuperable obstacle to the annexation, which was expected from him and which natural instinct, almost, assures us exists. By referring to the clause in the Constitution respecting the admission of States, and not showing that it applies only to territory then possessed and not subsequently acquired, he has merely introduced an element of doubt into the discussion. Respectng the annexation of Texas, the question is not, has Congress power to admit new States, but has t power to acquire new territory? No such power is given in the Constitution—and Congress has no powers except what are given. Not having the power to acquire territory, the power given in the Constitution to admit new States could only be exercised about the territory then possessed by the Union. So the framers of the Constitution undoubtedly understood it—and so Mr. Jefferson understood it; for he declares that he violated the Constitution by the purchase of Louisiana and that Congress must also violate it by sanctioning

What is the difficulty about Congress legislating for Liberia, or extending its protection over that colony? Is it not that the constitution does not sanction our possessing or legislating for territory beyond our limits that we can have no

## Gen. Jackson on Annexation.

It has long been known that General Jackson violently severed Texas from Mexico in order to legalize Slavery in the former-for that is the real and impelling reason. If Mexico had not been inflexibly hostile to Slavery, the Revolution this subject, and subscribe myself, with great in Texas would never have occurred. It was in good part by the open countenance and secret support of Gen. Jackson, then President, that the success of the Texas rebellion was secured. None, therefore, can be surprised to see the same Chief now actively promoting the cause of Annexation, and urging it by such arguments as the following. If there be any soundness, any vitality in them, we ought at once to attack and conquer Canada, since its strongholds are already in the possession of Great Britain, filled with troops and warlike stores, with no defensive works on our side, and all the cities and towns of the North within a few days' march of them.

But all this pretended alarm for the safety of the South from Foreign aggression is the sheerest cant and hypocrisy. The Mississippi River and its tributaries are the natural defences of the South West-better than a thousand fortifications. By the aid of these and their steamboats, five hundred thousand brave riflemen can be concentrated on any point on those waters in twenty days, and any invading army which could be marched there would be destroyed in a week more. But hear Old Hickory:

HERMITAGE, Feb. 12, 1814. Mu Dear Sir: Yours of the 23d ultimo has been received, and with it the Madisonian, containing Governor Gilmer's letter on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States.

You are not mistaken in supposing that I have formed an opinion on this interesting subject. It occupied much of my attention during my Presidency, and I am sure has lost none of its importance by what has since transpired.

Soon after my election in 1829, it was made known to me by Mr. Erwin, formerly our Minister at the Court of Madrid, that whilst at that Court, he had laid the foundation of a treaty with Spain for the cession of the Floridas, and the settlement of the boundary of Louisiana, fixing the Western limit of the latter at the Rio Grande,\* agreeably to the understanding of France-that he had written home to our Government for powers to complete and sign this negotiation; but that, instead of receiving such authority, the negotiation was taken cut of his hands and transferred to Washington, and a new treaty was there concluded, by which the Sabine, and not the Rio Grande, was recognized and established as the boundary of Louisiana. Finding that these statements were true, and

that our Government did really give up that important territory, when it was at its option to re tain it, I was filled with astonishment. The right to the territory was obtained from France: Spain stood ready to acknowledge it to the Rio Grande, and yet the authority asked by our Minister to insert the true boundary, was not only withheld, but in lieu of it, a limit was adopted. which stripped us of the whole of the vast country lying between the two rivers.

On such a subject, I thought with the ancient Romans, that it was right, never to cede any land or boundary of the republic, but always to add to it by honorable treaty, thus extending the area of freedom; and it was in accordance with this feeling that I gave our Minister to Mexico instructions to enter upon a negotiation for the retrocession of Texas to the United States.

This negotiation failed, and I shall ever regret it as a misfortune to both Mexico and the United States. Mr. Gilmer's letter presents many of the considerations which in my judgemen rendered the step necessary to the peace and harmony of the two countries; but the point in of good taste. "Ye bungling soul-physicians it, at that time, which most strongly impelled me to bellow for an hour or more," &c. Now such to the course I pursued, was the injustice done to us by the surrender of the territory, when it was obvious that it could have been retained

without increasing the consideration afterwards given for the Floridas. I could not but feel that the surrender of so vast and important a territory was attributable to an erroneous estimate of the tendency of our institutions, in which there was mingled somewhat of jealousy to the rising greatness of the South and West.

But I forbear to dwell on this part of the history of this question. It is past, and cannot now be undone. We can now only look at it as one of annexation, if Texas presents it to us; and if she does, I do not hesitate to say that the welfare and happiness of our Union require that it should be accepted.

If, in a military point of view alone, the question be examined, it will be found to be most important to the United States to be in possession. Great Britain has already made treaties with

Texas; and we know that far-seeing nation never omits a circumstance in her extensive interceurse with the world, which can be turned to account in increasing her military resources. May she not enter into an alliance with Texas? and reserving (as she doubtless will) the Northwestern boundary question as a cause of war with us whenever she chooses to declare it, let us suppose that, as an ally with Texas, we are to fight her! Preparatory to such a movement, she sends her 20,000 or 30,000 men to Texas; organizes them on the Sabine, where her supplies and arms can be concentrated before we have even notice of her intentions; makes a lodgement on the Mississippi; excites the negroes to insurrection; the lower country falls, and with it New-Orleans; and a servile war rages through the whole South

In the mean while she is also moving an army along the upper Western frontier from Canada, which in cooperation with the army from Texas. spreads ruin and havoc from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

Who can estimate the national loss we may sustain, before such a movement could be repelled with such forces as we could organize on short

Remember that Texas borders upon us, on our west, to 42° of north latitude, and is our southern boundary to the Pacific. Remember, also, that if annexed to the United States, our western boundary would be the Rio Grande, which is of itself a fortification, on account of its extensive. barren, and uninhabitable plains. With such a barrier on our west, we are invincible. The whole European world could not, in combination against us, make an impression on our Union. Our population on the Pacific would rapidly increase, and soon be strong enough for the protection of our eastern whalers, and, in the worst event, could always be sustained by timely aids from the intermediate country.

From the Rio Grande, over land, a large army could not march, or be supplied, unless from the Gulf by water, which, by vigilance, could always be intercepted; and to march an army near the Gulf, they could be harassed by militia, and detained until an organized force could be raised to

But I am in danger of running into unneces. sary details, which my debility will not enable me to close. The question is full of interest, also as it affects our domestic relations, and as it may bear upon those of Mexico to us. I will not un. dertake to follow it out to its consequences inthose respects; though I must say that, in all aspects, the annexation of Texas to the United States promises to enlarge the circle of free institutions, and is essential to the United States, particularly as lessening the probabilities of future collision with foreign power, and giving them greater efficiency in speading the blessings of

I return you my thanks for your kind letter on sincerity, your friend and obedient servant,
Hon A. V. Brown.

ANDREW JACKSON.

To the Editor of The Tribune : I was a little affected by the censoriousness of

a censor of the pulpit who writes in The Tribune of the 25th over the signature "Erasmus." He is not pleased, it seems, with the use which Ministers of the Gospel are making of the late shocking catastrophe at Washington. "In several thrilling discourses growing out of it," which he has heard, the speakers spoke of "the vanity of ambition for fame and power, the brevity of life, and the value of the consolations of Religion, but uttered no rebuke in reference to war." This he deems a great mistake in the pulpit, undertakes to teach the teachers, and, lest his own authority for right preaching on the subject should not be sufficient, quotes authority for good preaching, which, in his view, probably is first rate.

Many of the Clergy, I believe, think that the best way to prevent sin in any form is to attack it in the passions of corrupt nature which produce it. War originates in the badness of the human heart, just as the thunder storm originates in the foul state of the atmosphere. Purge out the noxious matter, and you prevent the storm. Let the sinful passions of the heart be subdued, and there is an end to their ravages in life. Here is where the school of French philosophers failed; and how well they succeeded-that same Voltaire and others-in prev .ting war and the butchery of human beings, the French Revolution tells. They attempted to make the fruit good without making the tree good. Oh, no! do not send our Clergy to school to Voltaire to learn how to preach against human slaughter. If they err on this point, it is probably because they have followed the guidance of the Bible rather than that of the very excellent, truthful, chaste-lipped Voltaire. The philosophy of their directory is beautifully expressed in the following passage: "From whence come wars and fightings among you !-Come they not hence even of your lusts which war in your members ?"

The ancients tell us of a little animal called the Ichneumon, which destroyed Crocodiles. How did the puny creature accomplish such a task? By attacking the full grown animal? No; but by going around on the beach and crushing the eggs which the Crocodile had deposited in the sand. They thought that the best way to kill Crocodiles was to take them in the egg. Is not evil always best crushed in the egg-the germ of or the principle which produces it? Let the reason of "Erasmus" take lessons from the instinct of the Ichneumon.

Now we are very apt to suppose that we could do other people's business a little better than they themselves do it, and that usually in proportion

to our ignerance of it. The censure of "Erasmus" reminded me of a man with whom I am acquainted, who has sadly neglected his education till he has reached the neighborhood of forty. He imagines that if he were licensed he should make a first rate preacher, at least when he shall have completely mastered the art of reading.

Permit me to close with a stricture on the gentleman's criticism. His quotation of the slang of Voltaire is in very bad taste. The sloughings of that foul spirit should be permitted to lie buried in the corruption of his own grave. His bitter and foul-mouthed attacks on the Gospel Ministry are unbefitting the age and the nation, and when applied to our Protestant Clergy are rather too much out of place to be any where in the vicinity language as this has served its dreadful purpose in the Providence of God, and we are sorry to see it revived and adopted by any censor of the pulpit now. Indeed, I think it is asking quite too much of a public journalist to print it, even (I had almost said) for my purpose.